COBBETT'S WEEKLY POLITICAL REGISTER.

VOL. XVI. No. 1.] LONDON, SATURDAY, JULY 8, 1809. [Price 1s.

" IT is with yourselves, and not with the House of Commons, that a Reform in Parliament must " originate."——SIR HENRY ST. JOHN MILDMAY's Speech, at the Essex Meeting, 1st July, 1809.

SUMMARY OF POLITICS.

ESSEX MEETING.—It was my intention to have published, this week, my FIFTH LETTER to the *People of Hampshire*, containing a practical view of *the sort of Reform* in the House of Commons, which is so manifestly wanted, and which is so loudly called for by all the uncorrupted part of the nation; but, there are several other topics, which will not well admit of delay, amongst which is the late Meeting in the County of Essex, which will, indeed, be found to be very closely connected with the subject of Reform, but which it would not be desirable to introduce into the series of Letters devoted exclusively to the discussion of that subject. Next week, and the week after, I intend to publish two Letters, *addressed to the King*, upon subjects of the greatest importance to him as well as to his people, and in which Letters I shall, I am convinced, state such facts as will surprize and fill with indignation all those who do not profit from the monstrous abuses I shall develope.—— At page 1010 of the foregoing volume, will be found two very interesting documents relative to the conduct of the SHERIFF of Essex, who refused to call a County Meeting, *first*, upon the ground of the subscribers not having designated themselves *freeholders*, and of the *inhabitants* having been summoned as well as the freeholders; and, *second* (when the first objection was removed) upon the ground of " an application conveyed to him, from a " great number of persons, in various parts " of the county, expressing an opinion, " that such Meeting was *unnecessary* and " *inexpedient*." In my last, I observed upon the effect of conduct like this, if it was permitted to have any weight in preventing meetings of the people. If it was necessary to have the assent of the Sheriff to hold a meeting of the people, it is manifest, that there would be no meetings, except such as were held at the desire, or command, of the ministry, the Sheriff being, now-a-days, appointed, in fact, by the ministry, who, of course, take care to appoint to that office none but those who are decidedly of their own politics, and, indeed, who are their own partizans.—— The Meeting in Essex, owing to the good sense and resolution of the gentlemen and yeomen of the county, and especially owing to the perseverance of MR. BURGOYNE, did, however, take place, on Saturday last, the 1st instant; and, from all that I can learn of it, it appears to have been one of the most respectable, as well as most numerous meetings, which has been held in the kingdom.——The Resolutions which were passed, will be found, under the proper head, in another part of this sheet. The discussion of them seems to have been very animated and able; and, it is with great satisfaction that I see that *Sir Henry Mildmay* was in the chair. His conduct will be greatly blamed by the venal tribe in Hampshire, and particularly by the political parsons, who will, I dare say, take off t'other bottle in drinking to his perdition; but, even upon principles of self-preservation, he is evidently right. If, indeed, the chances were great against his living more than a couple of years, it might be thought hardly worth while to give himself any trouble about a Reform of the Parliament; but having, in all probability, forty or fifty years to live, and a family to bring into the world and to support, and not having in view any means of getting back again, in place or pension, any portion of what is taken from him in taxes; thus situated, and foreseeing, as every man, in his senses, must foresee, that, if this system of taxation go on, the property will, in the course of another twenty or thirty years, all pass from the hands of the St. Johns and the Mildmays into those of the Huskissons, the Robert Wards, the Cannings and the Hunns; foreseeing this, and desirous to be able to keep a horse to ride as long as he lives, he must naturally wish for such a Reform in Parliament as will prevent the said transfer of property, or, rather, put a stop to it, the thing being actually now going on. Only observe how it works. Sir Henry Mildmay pays 500*l.* a year, for instance,

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY CAMBRIDGE B 5 AP 1939

in *property-tax*; that is to say, 500*l.* worth of his property is taken from him every year, in this one sort of tax; and the two Hunns, Mr. Canning's sisters, take off just that sum annually, and are so to take it off for life, unless a reformation take place. This is precisely the same as if the two Hunns had a mortgage upon Sir Henry's estate to the principal amount of 10,000*l.*; and, must he not, then, be a downright fool, as to his own plain common-sense interests, not to see, that a Reform would be a good thing? I know that we shall be told, that it is not Sir Henry alone, who pays the Hunns; but, that, according to our means, we all contribute towards their maintenance, in the same manner, that the people of a parish contribute towards the maintenance of paupers. Very true; but, I have supposed a case of transfer in the shape of *property tax* only; and, as it has been *proved* to the satisfaction of every reasonable man, that the *whole* of *that tax* may be saved, it matters not whether we consider Sir Henry's share of the property, thus taken from him, as being distributed amongst a thousand persons, or as being all transferred to two. It has been proved, that the whole of the property tax might be saved; the pension of the Hunns would, most assuredly, form one of the objects of curtailed expence; and, therefore, it is quite fair to consider Sir Henry Mildmay as maintaining the two Hunns. So that, whatever the political parsons may say; however they may lift up their eyes and hands at this "strange" conduct in the young Baronet; however deeply they may deplore his having been seduced from the good path in which they hoped to have led him, and from those principles which would have enabled them to extract half a dozen fat bucks from him every season, together with the suitable accompaniments; however they may, when they find him escaped from their clutches, bestow upon him their curses in the form of blessings; whatever they may say, and whatever they may do, he will hardly be persuaded to abandon his present line of conduct. In vain would the political parsons (who are all well patronized), persuade him, that they *share* with him in the loss of property; that they pay their quota towards the maintenance of the Hunns; for, he cannot fail to perceive, that what the church loses in this way it gains in *grants*. It has its tythes and its glebes and its estates taxed; but, it comes to parliament, as it has done *twice within these four years*, and obtains a grant from the public purse to make up for what it pays in taxes. Well may the church cry out against those, who object to heavy taxes, and say: "*we* are very well as we are." The beneficed clergy are, indeed, very well; because most of them have livings heaped upon them; and, because they can come to the House of Commons for grants to make up for what they pay in taxes; but the *we* does not apply to the people, who are compelled to pay the share of the parsons and their own share too.——The Resolution, respecting *Parliamentary Reform*, which, it appears, was moved by Mr. Holt White, does him and the meeting who adopted it very great honour. There are few men, very few indeed, better qualified for such a task than Mr. White, and I am very happy to see, that he has taken an active part in Essex. ——I state, upon unquestionable authority, that, for a week before the meeting, a hot canvass had been carried on to keep people from attending it. That the stewards of placed and pensioned landlords; that Magistrates and Militia Officers, Revenue Officers, Stamp-Distributors, and all the numerous swarm employed in the Barracks and Contracts of various descriptions, had been on the alert for many days before the meeting took place; but that, notwithstanding these precautions, the Shire Hall was crowded, and also the great entrance to it as far as any one could hear or see.——It is worthy of remark, that the resolution respecting a Reform of Parliament received more applause than any of the rest. This was, indeed, quite natural; but, it is pleasing to find, that the cause is every where so well understood.——In Sussex, it is said, the same game of a *counter-requisition* (as they have the effrontery to call it), is now playing to prevent a meeting, and that *their* Sheriff, too, has refused, under this pretence, to call one; but, the enemies of corruption will, doubtless, follow the example of the people in Essex, and call a meeting without the Sheriff.——It is good to remark, that in Sussex as well as in Essex, the *party*-men, on both sides, are equally opposed to a meeting, and most strongly reprobate the intention to call one.——Mr. Burgoyne stated, at the Essex Meeting, that the names to the "counter-requisition," he found, upon examination, to be, in many instances, false; in others, improperly obtained; some by the abuse of the *clerical character* to political purposes, and that,

too, *even in the church or vestry.* The Clergy really appear to have thrown away the scabbard. They seem to have made up their minds rather to see the whole thing go to wreck, than to suffer a Reform to take place. It would, perhaps, not be difficult to find out the reason; but be the reason what it may, the *fact* manifestly is, that, of all the various descriptions who dread a Reform of the parliament, none appear to dread it so much as the Clergy. But, need we wonder at this, when we see how Dr. *O'Meara* and Mr. *Beazeley* and others were working for preferment? How many of those, who have obtained benefices, have obtained them by similar means, it is impossible for us to say; but, this we do *know*, that there has not been one single *sermon* published against the corruptions and other abominations that have recently come to light. Nothing is more unjust than to condemn men by *classes*; but, what are we to do, when we meet with so many of the clergy amongst our bitterest enemies? There are some, and even many, of the clergy who are friends of Parliamentary Reform; I have a letter of one before me at this moment; I know many more of the same description? but, we must follow the rule, and not the exception. The conduct of a *few* might be passed over in silence for the sake of the *many*; but, it is the many who are our enemies, and, therefore, if our expressions of resentment are, in some cases, too general, the fault is with the clerical profession, and not with us.——The sentiment, expressed by Sir Henry Mildmay, as quoted in my motto, is, to be sure, so just, that every one must agree to it; yet the public-robbers have been continually publishing against it, as if it contained something of a *seditious* and even of a *rebellious* nature. But, is it not downright stupidity to suppose, that a reform of any abuse, be its nature and extent what they may, will *originate* with those who are practising the said abuse? The party so practising may, possibly, upon being applied to, discontinue an abuse; but, if *left to itself*, is it not foolish in the extreme to expect it to reform? Apply this doctrine to Buonaparté; and who is brute enough to suppose, that he will give up any part of his conquests, until he be *forced* to do it? But our public-robbers would fain persuade us, that the House of Commons will reform itself without even being *asked* to do it. I am for asking them to reform themselves; but, I am for doing it through a channel which would give weight to my application; and this, I trust, when the time for the application arrives, will be the opinion of the whole nation.

MR. WARDLE'S SPEECH, on the subject of saving eleven millions annually, has been published in a pamphlet. It is too long for insertion here, and, therefore, for the present, I shall content myself with inserting from the pamphlet a recapitulation of the several sums he proposes to save.

RECAPITULATION OF SAVINGS ON

Household troops, two regiments	£.73,317	0	0
Dragoon guards, dragoons, and light ditto	340,000	0	0
Foreign corps	1,005,017	0	0
Subsidy annually paid Count Meuron for continuing his regiment in his Majesty's service	3,000	0	0
Militia of the United Kingdom	300,000	0	0
Staff of fifteen small Militia corps reduced	10,000	0	0
Local Militia	700,000	0	0
Volunteers of the United Kingdom	1,000,000	0	0
Royal Waggon Train	48,993	0	0
Manx Fencibles	24,184	0	0
Staff of the Army	200,000	0	0
Recruiting Staff, Levies and Bounties	200,000	0	0
Army Agency	51,075	0	0
War office	24,000	0	0
Pay office	24,000	0	0
Contract horses	299,083	0	0
Fortifications and repairs at home	500,000	0	0
Medical department and annual loss of men	200,000	0	0
Commissariat	500,000	0	0
Barracks	350,000	0	0
Army clothing	270,000	0	0
On the collection of the revenue in Great Britain	1,051,930	0	0
On ditto ditto in Ireland	388,367	0	0
Commissioners and Auditors of Public Accounts	70,000	0	0
Bank, the sum charged for the Management of the National Debt	210,594	0	0
Pensions and Offices executed by deputy	200,000	0	0
Bounties	150,000	0	0
Colonies	500,000	0	0
Catholic Emancipation	2,000,000	0	0
	10,693,563	0	0
Expenditure of the Navy for the year ending Jan. 5, 1809, 17,467,892*l.* one third of which is	5,822,630	13	4
Total Savings	16,516,193	13	4

Now, it appears from this, that the proposed sum might be saved without any saving at all in the *naval department*, which is one of the great heads of expenditure, and in which there is, it is, on all hands,

agreed, incredible waste.——Mr. Wardle, in his speech, made particular mention of the article of *canvass*, which was supplied by the very person, who received a salary as *inspector of canvass*. In answer to this, he was told, that, if he had gone to the Admiralty and pointed out this abuse, it would have been corrected. So; a member of parliament was to go and kick his heels in Mr. Robert Ward's Anti-chamber, till the great man was at leisure to hear his complaints! But, who ever heard of any redress being obtained in this way? Who is foolish enough to suppose, that such applications would afford the smallest chance of redress? If any one is foolish enough, let him look at the fate of ATKINS, the Barrack-Master in the Isle of Wight.—— The public robbers now say, in their several publications, that they did not want to be told, that a great saving of expence might be made, provided we would *disband a considerable part of our forces, and thereby expose ourselves to the consequences of invasion*. This is their grand fallacy; it is what they are circulating in all directions. But, from the foregoing recapitulation, it will be seen, that, supposing the troops, which Mr. Wardle would disband, to be necessary to our safety, the saving from that source makes but a comparatively small part of the whole of the savings proposed to be made. There is 80,000*l.* a year paid to people for *over-looking accounts*, when it is evident that it is the business, the great and peculiar business of members of parliament to examine into the manner in which the public money is expended. What are they sent to parliament for, if it be not for that? And, after being elected for the purpose of guarding the public purse, they pay 80,000*l.* of the public money to others to examine into public accounts; and, notwithstanding this enormous expence, it is stated, that there are, at this time, accounts to the amount of FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTY UNSETTLED! Why, this very circumstance alone proves, and must prove, to any man at all conversant in business, that the *loss* and *waste* must be immense.——The consequence of keeping in tow this mass of floating accounts, is, that the accountants are, all the while, held in a state of *most abject dependence upon the ministry of the day*; a dependence, which, at this hour, many a man inherits from his *grandfather*, all his property being answerable for what was done thirty or forty years ago. This seems to be almost too much to believe; but the fact is so. I remember, that, in 1800, an American, a friend of mine, came to England in order to assist in getting passed the accounts of General Dalrymple, who had been Quarter-Master-General in America, during the American war, which began in 1776; and I know, that these accounts were not finally passed till some time in 1803; that is to say, till twenty years after the close of the American war. This is a trifle to the age of some accounts, I am told. Is it not impossible that a nation should not be ruined at this rate of going on? Or will the public robbers attempt to make us believe, that these unsettled hundreds of millions, and an endless train of dependents growing out of this abuse; will they attempt to make us believe, that these constitute part of our *forces*, part of what is to defend us against invasion? An instance of the loss sustained by this system of accounts has recently come to light in the case of JOHN BOWLES and his brother Dutch Commissioners, who, it now appears, snacked *ten thousand pounds each* the first year; that is to say, *fifty thousand pounds*. These are a part of the "*forces*," that Mr. Wardle wishes to disband, and will the robbers pretend, that *these* are necessary to defend us against Buonaparté? —— Then there is a good quarter of a million to be saved by the cutting off of unmerited sinecures, pensions, and reversions. And will the public robbers attempt to persuade us, that LADY LOUISA PAGET, *alias* LADY LOUISA ERSKINE, who is a pensioner at 300*l.* a year, *under the former name*, upon the English list, and at another 300*l.* a year, *under the latter name*, upon the Scotch list; will the public-robbers attempt to persuade us, that this pensioned daughter of the earl of Uxbridge, or that the two HUNNS, or Mrs. EMILY HUSKISSON, or Mrs. What's her name WARD, or any of the endless list of those who are fastened upon us without any reason assigned; will the public-robbers, either in town or country, have the impudence to reckon these amongst the *forces*, which Mr. Wardle wishes to disband, and which are *necessary to defend the country against invasion*? Will they tell us, that the enormous sinecures of Lords Arden, Buckinghamshire, Camden, Bathurst, Liverpool, Marquis of Buckingham, Marquis Wellesley, and those of the Seymours and Wellesleys and De Blaquieres, &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. to the filling of a book larger than the New Testament; will

the robbers tell us, that these are part of our *forces*, and that to *disband* them will expose us to *the danger of invasion?* Will the robbers have the impudence to tell us this? I rather think they will.—There was one head, which Mr. Wardle did not touch upon, and which calls for the attention of the public, without delay; namely, that of the *Crown Lands*, that is to say, lands, houses, manors, and royalties belonging to the *public*. These lands, &c. formerly *supported the king and royal family*. They formed the hereditary estate of the kings of England and Scotland; and, upon that estate they lived, never coming to the people for any money, except for extraordinary national purposes, such as *war*, or any great undertaking. Latterly the thing has been changed. The parliament gave the king and his family money *out of the taxes*, and took the income of the *hereditary estate* for the use of the public. The estate still goes under the name of *Crown Lands;* but, the fact is, that it is a real estate belonging to the public, and of which the parliament may dispose as it pleases.—Now, then, let us see what this estate yields us annually. Let us see what it brings into the Exchequer, that is to say, into the pocket of the public. It used formerly to maintain, in great part, at least, the royal family and all the household and officers of the king. In lieu of it the public allows the king an immense sum of money annually, and to the different branches of his family the sum is not much less. Well, what does this famous estate yield us? What do *we* get annually out of all these buildings, streets, farms, manors, forests, and royalties, *the very list of which occupies many pages in folio? What do they all yield us?* Why, 966*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* No more. The same sum every year. Let us see the items of the account for one year; the year ending on the 5th of January, 1805. The *fifth* of January, you will perceive; for the accounts of our stewards are like those of no other mortal.

CROWN LANDS.			
Balance in hand last year.....	£21,543	13	9¾
(See, they reckon with us to a *farthing.*)			
Gross receipt within the year.....35,168	9	1	
Total	56,712	2	10¾
DEDUCT.			
Charges of management	2,345	5	9¾
Pensions and stipends paid out of the land revenue 10,008	18	4¾	
Expences incurred in *securing* and *improving* his Majesty's *Woods* and *Forests!!!* 12,517	10	5	
Balance remaining in the hands of the Receiver 30,873	14	11¼	
	55,745	9	6¾
Paid into the Exchequer, or, Pocket of the public ..... —966	13	4	

There it is; and, the sum paid into the pocket of the public is precisely the same for the three years succeeding, that is to say, from January 1805 to January 1808, notwithstanding many *new leases* have been let since that time, and notwithstanding the immense quantity of *timber* and *bark* that has been sold, and the high prices at which they have been sold, or at least might have been sold. What! is the gross receipt from this estate but 35,000 and some odd pounds a year? I should suppose that it might be made to bring a hundred times the sum. Let the property be sold; it would, including the timber, fetch twenty millions of money at the hammer; and if sold year after year, in a judicious manner, I should not be surprised if it brought three times that sum. But, only think of its yielding clear to the public the pitiful sum of 966*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* a year! Why give us that sum? Why not carry that along in the balance? Twelve thousand pounds in one year for "*securing* and *improving* the *woods* and *forests!*" What! And no credit given us for *timber* and *bark* cut and sold? Or, is that included in the 966*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*? Oh! these are brave stewards that we have! You see, though the estate is so large, they bring their accounts to balance to a farthing. We, who live in Hampshire, see a little about the management of "*woods* and *forests.*" There is, for instance, a pretty smash of timber this year, in the HOLT FOREST. Will that bring us, poor fellows, only 966*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*? Is the amount of timber and bark *not* included in these accounts? *Where*, then, is it to be found? If it does not come under the head of *Crown Lands*, it comes no where. Some timber may be sent to the Dock Yards; but, the *bark*, I presume, is not; and that is worth nearly as much as the timber. Besides, we see, every year, advertisements for the sale of *timber* as well as *bark* in the public forests. ——Upon the whole this is a very pretty concern. It is, I think, a fact worth bearing in mind, that an estate, in lieu of which the public gives *hundreds of thousands a year*, yields to that public exactly

966*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* a year. Tell me not of the *balance* in hand. What is the balance to us, if it be never paid to us? We see it has been kept in hand for four succeeding years; and, why should we suppose, that it is ever intended to be paid us? Upon referring back, I find, that, from the year 1803 (which is as far as I have the accounts now at hand) the sum paid into the Exchequer has been this precise 966*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* and that a balance has always been carried on in the hands of the Receiver, as above-stated. Is not this pretty work? And why, except to puzzle and confuse, fix upon this odd sum of 966*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*? Why not give us a thousand a year, for the estate? Was there ever any thing so absurd as this altogether? What should we think of any individual, who was to suffer his affairs to be so managed? Should we not, without a dissenting voice, pronounce his approaching ruin? Why mock us with this payment of 966*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*? Why not keep the whole under the name of *balance?* Good God! the "CROWN LANDS" to yield no more than 966*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* a year!——This, however, is but a *specimen*, I am clearly convinced, of what will come forth, if Mr. Wardle pushes on his inquiry; if he does not, as indeed I have no fear that he will, suffer himself to be *wearied* and *disgusted* by the base attacks, which the public robbers are making upon him, through the means of their daily and other publications.——This is, however, what he has to expect. No man ever, in such a state of things, did any public service without experiencing the bitterness of their enmity; and, therefore, that man is a fool who undertakes any thing for the public without making up his mind to the meeting with every thing that assassin-like malice, joined to the most barefaced falsehood, can invent and execute.——The very existence of those who live by deceiving and robbing the people, depend upon the destruction of the reputation, at least, of such a man as Mr. Wardle, and especially since he has pledged himself to prosecute the great inquiry above-mentioned. If he *persevere* in that, he will succeed; and if he succeed, all public-robbery is at an end. No wonder, therefore, that they assail him; no wonder that they abuse him; no wonder that they set all their engines to work in order to blast his reputation; no wonder that a corrupt press is constantly engaged in the work of defaming him.——As to the TRIAL, which has taken place, during the last week, that, indeed, is another matter; because there we have *evidence* legally given. From the proceedings, as published in the STATESMAN, where I find the trial the most fully reported, it appears, that one WRIGHT, an Upholsterer, brought an action against Mr. Wardle for the amount of goods furnished Mrs. Clarke by Mr. Wardle's order. The giving of this order Mr. Wardle denies, and, of course, defends the action. Mrs. Clarke, and Wright (*a brother* of the plaintiff), are the witnesses to the order being given; and the jury, with some exceptions as to the charges, find *a verdict for the plaintiff*. ——Upon the supposition, that the evidence given be the *truth*, then Mr. Wardle stands convicted of having made a promise to Mrs. Clarke, or, rather, to Wright, which he did not fulfil. In short, of having broken his word. That he was right in giving her either goods or money, in order to get her to divulge the secrets she possessed, there can be no doubt. The government openly invite us, by pecuniary rewards, to give evidence against one another, and even to betray one another; as in the cases of the receipt-duty and the card-duty. The question, therefore, is simply a question of *breach of promise*, and of this Mr. Wardle has most positively asserted, that he will *prove* himself not to have been guilty.——There were, it appears, two or more witnesses, which he wished to have called, and whom his lawyers did not call, notwithstanding his pressing request to have them called.——Mr. Wardle will, doubtless, not delay to publish, in some way or other, a detailed statement of all that has taken place, relative to this transaction. Until that is done we should be commenting in the dark; but, the public will not fail to have perceived, that the *Attorney General* was selected by Wright to conduct the cause against Mr. Wardle; nor will they fail to call to mind, the description which that gentleman gave of her, as a witness, when she was examined before the House of Commons. He *now* seems to have thought her *a very good witness!*——For my part, I shall not pretend to say more upon the matter, than to express my *decided* conviction, that Mr. Wardle will be able to prove, that what he has asserted is true. If what I have been told be correct, some most curious facts immediately connected with this case, will now be communicated to the public. If our enemies erred at first, they, at last, appear to have seen their error, and to have

done their best to retrieve it. When they agreed *to purchase the suppression of Mrs. Clarke's book* at the price of *eight* or *ten thousand pounds* in cash down to herself, besides *an annuity of four hundred pounds a year for life*, with *reversion for the lives of her two daughters*, and *to provide for her brother*; when they came to the point to make *such a purchase* and she to make *such a sale*, it was plain, that there were few things at which either party would stick. It was the signal, too, of *reconciliation* between her and her old associates; and, such reconciliations are usually attended with some act of vengeance upon those who have been the cause of the rupture. It is said, that Mrs. Clarke has demanded large sums of money from Mr. Wardle, *on her own account*. This I can scarcely believe; for, of all vices, one would not suspect such a woman of the vice of greediness of gold; and pure greediness, or the instigation of others, it must be to prompt her to attempts at such extortion, after she had got so large a sum from the corruptors. There can be no doubt, I think, of her having been *instigated by others* to make these demands upon Mr. Wardle. I cannot believe it possible, that she would have done it of her own head; but, be that as it may, Mr. Wardle must now have *no reserve* with the public. He must publish all that he possesses proof of, especially about the money that she received for her book, and about the *contents* of that book. This is the thing in which the nation is interested more deeply than in any thing else, and this is what Mr. Wardle should, if possible, recover from the flames. ——A correspondent observes to me, that it is "*pity* Mr. Wardle did not pay the money." It would be a great pity if he had, unless, indeed, he promised to pay it. If he did not, it would have been a most cowardly act to pay it. Besides, it would have been folly in the extreme; for, in the case supposed, he might be sure, that demands would never cease, while he had a shilling left.——I am not much surprized at any part of the transaction; nor shall I be surprized, unless the demands upon Mr. Wardle, and the machinations against him, should now cease. Let the public bear in mind what weighty reasons there exist, in the breasts of thousands, for hating this gentleman; for bearing towards him a deadly hatred; and let us not forget the *cunning*, the *experience*, the *industry*, the *monk-like malignity*, and the *extensive means*, of the wretches, who bear him this hatred. There is, probably, nothing that can be named, that they would not do, in order to destroy him. Assassination they have not the courage to commit; but, if they could catch him asleep and pour boiling lead into his ear, so that their own carcasses were safe from the consequence, my sincere opinion is, that there is scarcely a man of them who would scruple to do it. And, as to the instigating of others, they would consider the crime of the instigated as an act of godliness, and would with ready finger, turn to the memorable instance of RAHAB the harlot.——My last words upon this subject are: give us, Mr. Wardle, the *contents* of the intended book of Mrs. Clarke. This is the way to pay off your and our enemies. You must, I should hope, have seen some of those contents. If possible give us those contents; and, if you could get us, at the same time, a copy of another work, of *somewhat the same sort*, printed privately about two years and a half ago, it would add to the value of the collection. People may say what they will, but these are the things, and the *only* things, which this nation wants at this time. These books would be of much more real service to England than all the horse and foot in the country, not excepting the German Legion. I beg, Sir, to press this upon your mind. It is impossible, that all the copies can be destroyed. Let us but have these books, and whole years of labour will be saved. The people will then see things as they are, and as they ought to be known to be.

N. B. Some papers, sent me by M. are excellent; but I shall not, for *some time*, be able to use them to advantage. M. is perfectly right in all he says. Yes; that is the *true doctrine*. Every thing short of it is base and stupid compromise, alike inimical to the king and the people. The thoughts had struck me before; but I do not know, that I could so well have expressed them. The proposition respecting "THE WORTHIES" is self-evident. I long for the day, when it shall be stated in the proper place, and in good earnest. ——If M. has any further reflections to send me, upon that interesting subject, I shall be very happy to receive them.

Botley, 5 July, 1809.

THE CLERGY.

SIR;—At a time when all honest and independent Englishmen are standing forward, to declare their abhorrence of those corruptions which have recently been

proved to exist in so many departments of the state; and when we are, from all parts of the kingdom, sending up testimonials of praise and gratitude to those sincere friends of their country, who had the courage to expose before Parliament the most shameless abuse of power in the people who have been entrusted with the resources of the nation; it may be of service to the cause of truth and honesty, if you, Mr. Cobbett, through the medium of your Register, which is so universally read and admired, do give a friendly caution to those men whom gratitude for past favours, or hopes of good things to come, induce, contrary to the plainest common sense, and in opposition to the principles they profess, to become the abettors of iniquity, and the champions of every thing immoral, indecent, and corrupt.——I wish you, sir, particularly to caution such of the time-serving ministers of our holy religion, as take an active part in politics, not to suffer their zeal in so unworthy a cause, to expose them to contempt and ridicule. ——It is a disgraceful fact, that there are not wanting abundance of these ministers who descend to busy themselves at meetings and elections, in a manner totally arbitrary and unconstitutional; looking, no doubt, to preferment and reward at the hand of their worthy benefactors.——But these gentlemen must recollect, it is not for such labours that the people of England consent to give them so large a portion of the fruits of their labour; and if they hope to continue to enjoy an easy independence, with the respect of the people, they will endeavour to present us, in their own lives, an example of piety, disinterestedness, and moral excellence; and leave the work of party and faction to those in whom ambition, and the vanities of the world, may with less show of inconsistency be allowed to prevail.——I am, Sir—Your great admirer and humble Servant, JOHN BULL.

P. S.——I avoid the mention of names, or of place, as I think the good proposed may be effected without wounding the feelings of any individual particularly, not being actuated by a spirit of party or malice, but only anxious to see reformation complete and effectual.

MILITARY SINECURES.

MR. COBBETT;—You will much oblige a constant reader by inserting the following facts, and thereby exhibiting to the public a specimen of some of the "Errors," which in modern times are "Excepted" in giving evidence on Military Promotion, I was going to say, Sinecure Appointments, which, by the bye, I think the most proper term in such cases.—On looking over a New Army List for last month, published by Mr. Egerton, and dated at the top, "War-office"—then, under this date "By Authority," I am, of course, to consider the contents as authentic, coming from that great Depôt of Military Information, sanctioned and so authorized by this official organ of power—I found (under the head of garrisons,) the name of Richard Leonard as a half-pay lieutenant, (I believe drawing the half-pay from the 54th regt.) annexed to the situation of a Fort-major at the city of St. John, New Brunswick; with a stated salary of 86*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* per ann. exclusive (of course) of lodging money, coals, candles, and all the other et ceteras the public pay to servants of this description. In the same page (what a bare-faced thing!) I observed the same Richard Leonard (lieut. on half-pay) holds the appointment of Fort-major at Fredericton also, one hundred miles distant from Fort Home at the city of St. John, and which last place should be his residence on the former appointment as Fort-major.—But what surprised me not a little was, to observe another stated salary annexed to the second appointment of 91*l.* 5*s.* per annum, and of course the usual supply of candles, coals, lodgings, &c. &c. &c. drawn on these occasions and paid by the public.—But will you think it possible, Mr. Cobbett, you, who have been in all those places as well as myself, and who have observed the peculations at Fredericton barracks, which you detected there on a certain occasion, will you believe it, that the same Richard Leonard (a lieut. on half-pay of the 54th regt.) is now actually on whole pay, and receiving it too, as a captain in the present New Brunswick regt. the pay being ten shillings per diem, or 184*l.* 10*s.* per ann. with bau forage, or bat forage, or some of these hard named things, and contingent allowance, for paying his company, 36*l.* per annum, with lodging and fuel, &c. &c.

Now, Mr. Cobbett, it will almost appear incredible, that the same Richard Leonard is also the Town-major (what a number of these majors there are) at Fredericton, for which he receives, I have heard, 15*s.* per diem, or 276*l.* 15*s.* per annum, with an allowance for horse forage or bait forage (I never can remember these serviceables' names) of 2*s.* 3*d.* per day—

20*l.* per annum also for an office!!! with coals, candles, &c. &c. &c.—and no doubt a good round sum allowed him for postage and stationary, by the burthened people of England.—Here are the "Errors," Mr. Cobbett, and it would be well if these were an "Exception;" but bless you, I fear they are numerous, for instance, there is a Mr. Harris Wm. Hailes in the same province, who is (so over-grown with good things, and so fat, as not to be able scarcely to walk) a Brevet-major, and a Brigadier-major also, an Adjutant-general to the militia, and a Captain in the New Brunswick regiment besides:—what this cheap bargain to the public receives, in toto, I know not; but if we may judge of things by appearances, he seems to have fattened in the service.—I had nearly forgotten to say, that this well-grown gentleman is a half-pay officer also, and I think it a pity he was not kept on his half-pay, for it would be a great sin, in my opinion, to march him with his company round the parade ground at his barracks. Indeed, I fear much whether it would not endanger his valuable life, to fatigue him in the slightest degree whatever, and the more particularly, as this servant of the crown was never a mile distant from Fredericton, on military duty, in the course of his services.—Now, Mr. Cobbett, let us return to Fort-major, and Fort-major-Town-major, Captain, and Half-pay Lieut. Leonard, and consider whether all these situations are necessary or not; if they are not, why burthen the public with so many useless salaries; and if they are, why not render each appointment effective, by taking from the half-pay list officers of known merit, and placing them in the different situations. This would relieve the half-pay list, and permit the said capt. Rich. Leonard to be and appear at the head of his company at his regiment, where the rules of the service require he should be, and deduct one from the many unexceptionable errors so prevalent in the British army at the present day.—This rule would be equally beneficial in the case of Harris Wm. Hailes, and relieve a veteran of his description from too much toil, while the public purse would be saved in the general aggregate. Should you honour this with insertion in your valuable and patriotic "Register," you shall hear frequently on similar subjects, from an

OLD, HALF-STARVED,
RAGGED SUBALTERN
OF THIRTEEN YEARS STANDING.

June 21, 1809.

PROCEEDINGS

In COUNTIES, CITIES, BOROUGHS, *&c. relative to the recent* INQUIRY *in the House of Commons, respecting the Conduct of the* DUKE OF YORK. *(Continued from vol.* XV. *p.* 1012.*)*

COUNTY OF ESSEX.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and Inhabitants, convened this day, July 1, 1809, at the Shire-Hall, at Chelmsford, by public advertisement.—SIR HENRY ST. JOHN MILDMAY, bart. in the Chair, It was Resolved unanimously,

1. That the right of the people to meet and discuss public measures, to consider the conduct of their representatives, and to prefer any Address, Petition or Remonstrance, to the King or either House of Parliament, should be asserted and maintained by every friend to the liberties of England.

2. That the refusal of the Sheriff to convene a Meeting of the County, in consequence of the interference of individuals, ought not to prevent the exercise of this right.

3. That the extraordinary application made to the Sheriff, by persons who intruded on him their advice to withhold his assent to the Requisition for assembling the County, is an unwarrantable attempt to prevent the people of Essex from expressing their opinion on subjects most important to their best interests.

4. That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to G. L. Wardle, esq. for his having instituted the late Inquiry, in the House of Commons, relative to the Conduct of the Commander in Chief, and for the firmness which he displayed in discharge of his duty, in defiance of the threats of ministers and the artifices of the Crown-Lawyers.

5. That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to sir Francis Burdett, bart. who seconded Mr. Wardle's motion for the Inquiry; and to lord visc. Folkestone and Samuel Whitbread, esq. for the able and zealous assistance which they afforded him during this investigation.

6. That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the one hundred and twenty-five Members who supported Mr. Wardle's motion for an Address to his Majesty.

7. That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the Minority of the House of Commons who voted against the motion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to negative the Charges preferred against the Commander in-Chief.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY CAMBRIDGE 5 AP 1939 B

8. That this Meeting has witnessed with the deepest regret various decisions in the House of Commons upon corrupt practices, which have been exposed, or in proof of which evidence has been offered to be adduced at the bar, but refused to be heard; and do declare their decided conviction, if measures are not adopted in the next session effectually to prevent their recurrence, the honour and character of Parliament will be extinct, and the safety of the country endangered.

9. That this Meeting, whilst they are willing to make any sacrifice in defence of the safety and independence of the Country, feel that it is highly necessary that a rigid system of economy should be established; and that the Thanks of this Meeting are due to those Members of the House who have exerted themselves to obtain a retrenchment of the public expenditure, and such a diminution of the burthens of the people as are compatible with the means of national security.

10. That C. C. Western, esq. one of the members in Parliament for the Borough of Maldon (and the only member returned from the County of Essex who supported col. Wardle, or has declared in the House of Commons his conviction of the necessity of a speedy and effectual Reform,) by the uniform, upright and independent conduct which he has invariably observed upon public questions, has highly merited the Thanks and approbation of this Meeting.

11. That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to lord Cochrane, the hon. T. Brand, sir F. Burdett, bart. S. Whitbread, W. A. Madocks, G. L. Wardle, T. Creevey, C. C. Western, and Wm. Smith, esqrs. and to every other member of either House of Parliament, who has, in the course of the last session, declared himself friendly to a Reform in the representation of the people.

12. That the Thanks of the Meeting be given to sir Henry St. John Mildmay, bart. for his readiness in taking the Chair, and for his impartial and judicious conduct this day.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

FRENCH ARMY IN AUSTRIA.—*Nineteenth Bulletin, dated Vienna, June 16.*

The anniversary of the Battle of Marengo has been celebrated by the victory of the Raab, which the right wing of the army, under the command of the Prince Viceroy, has obtained over the united corps of the Archduke John, and the Archduke Palatine.—Since the battle of the Piave the Viceroy has pursued the Archduke John at the point of the bayonet. —The Austrian army hoped to canton itself on the banks of the Raab, between St. Gothard and Kormond. On the 5th June, the Viceroy advanced from Neustadt, and established his head-quarters at Œdenburgh, in Hungary. On the 7th he followed up his movements, and arrived at Guns. Gen. Lauriston, with his corps of observation, formed a junction with his left wing. On the 8th, gen. Montbrun, with his division of cavalry, effected the passage of the Raabnitz, near Sovenyhaga, routed 300 cavalry of the Hungarian Insurrection, and drove them towards Raab. On the 9th, the Viceroy proceeded towards Sarvar. The cavalry of gen. Grouchy fell in with the enemy's rear-guard at Vasvar, and made some prisoners. On the 10th, gen. Macdonald arrived from Gratz at Kormond. On the 11th, gen. Grenier came up at Karako with a column of the enemy's flank corps which defended the bridge. He, however, passed the river in force. Gen. Debroc made a brilliant charge with the 9th hussars upon a battalion of 400 men, 300 of whom were made prisoners. On the 12th the army passed the bridge of Merse near Papa. The Viceroy, from a height, observed the whole hostile army in battle-array. Gen. Montbrun debouched in the plain, and charged the enemy's cavalry, which he completely overthrew, after having made many skilful manœuvres. The enemy had already begun to retreat; the Viceroy passed the night at Papa. On the 13th, at five A. M. the army marched towards Raab. Our cavalry and the Austrians shewed themselves near the village of Szanach. The enemy were defeated, and we took 400 prisoners. The Archduke John having united with the Archduke Palatine, took a fine position upon some heights, the right wing rested upon Raab, a fortified town, and the left covering the road of Comorn, another strong place in Hungary.—On the 14th, at 11 P. M. the Viceroy drew up his army in order of battle, and with 35,000 men attacked 50,000 of the enemy. But the zeal of our troops was animated by the recollection of the memorable victory which had sanctified this day. All the soldiers shouted with joy when they saw the enemy, who were placed in three lines, consisting of from 20 to 25,000 men of the remains of the fine army of Italy which had already

imagined itself masters of Italy; of 10,000 men under gen. Haddick; of 5 or 6,000 men of the remains of Jellachich's corps, and the corps of the Tyrol which had joined the army through the passes of Carinthia; of 10 or 12,000 of the Hungarian insurrection.—The Viceroy placed gen. Montbrun's cavalry, the brigade of gen. Colbert, and the cavalry of gen. Grouchy, on his right wing; the corps of gen. Grenier formed two platoons, whereof gen. Serres's division was the right one.—In the advanced guard an Italian division, commanded by gen. Baraguay d'Hilliers, formed a third platoon. The reserve of gen. Puthod formed the reserve; gen. Lauriston, with his corps of observation, supported by gen. Sahuc, formed the extremity of the left wing, and watched Raab.—At two in the afternoon the cannonade began. At three our second and third platoons were engaged. The fire from the musketry was severe. The first line of the enemy was overthrown; but the second withstood for a moment the shock of our first division, which being speedily reinforced, also overthrew the line of the enemy. The enemy's reserve then appeared. On his side the Viceroy, who followed all his movements, advanced with his reserve. The fine position of the Austrians was taken, and at four the victory was decisive. The enemy, who were in complete disorder, could not easily unite, so that in no way was the movement of our cavalry obstructed. Three thousand prisoners, six pieces of cannon, and four standards, are the memorials of this atchievement. The enemy left 3,000 dead on the field of battle, among whom is a major-general. Our loss amounts to about 900 killed and wounded. Among the first is col. Thierry; and among the latter, brigadier-gen. Valentine and col. Expert.—The field of battle had long been pitched upon by the enemy, who had determined to make a stand in that fine position. On the 15th he was closely pursued on the road of Comorn and Pest. The inhabitants of the country remain tranquil, and take no part in the war. The Emperor's Proclamation has set men's minds reflecting. It is known that the Hungarian nation always desired its independence.—The part of the Insurrection which is now with the army was raised by the last Diet; it is in arms and does duty.

Twentieth Bulletin, dated Vienna, June 20.

When the news of the victory of Raab arrived at Buda, the Empress immediately left it.—The enemy's army was pursued during the 15th and 16th. It passed the Danube over the bridge of Comorn.—The town of Raab has been invested; we hope to be masters of it in a few days. We have taken the entrenched camp of Raab, which will contain 100,000 men.—The enemy inundate the country with false reports; this is part of the system adopted for stirring up the lower classes.—M. De Metternich left Vienna on the 18th. He will be exchanged for M. Dodun and the officers of the French Legation.—Prince Gallitzen entered Gallicia on the 3rd, in three columns.

Imperial Decree, dated Vienna, 17th May, 1809, proclaimed in all the public squares and market-places of the city.

Napoleon, emperor of the French, &c. taking into consideration that when Charlemagne, emperor of the French, and our sublime predecessor, endowed the bishops of Rome with various lands, they were given as fiefs to maintain the peace of his subjects, and that Rome did not therefore cease to form a part of his empire: Considering further, that since that time the union of spiritual and temporal power has been, and still is, the source of dissention; that the popes have but too frequently availed themselves of the one, to support their pretensions to the other; and that with spiritual concerns, which are in their nature immutable, have been confounded worldly affairs, which change with the circumstances and politics of the times:—Considering finally, that it is in vain to attempt to reconcile with the temporal pretensions of the Pope, all that we have concerted for the security of our army, the repose and prosperity of the nations over which we reign, and the dignity and inviolability of our empire,

We have decreed, and do decree as follow:—

Art. 1. The Papal Territory is united with the French Empire.—2. The city of Rome, illustrious for the recollection it recalls, and for the monuments which it contains, is declared to be a FREE AND IMPERIAL CITY. Its government and administration shall be fixed by a particular decree.—3. The monuments of Roman greatness shall be maintained and preserved, at the expence of our treasury.—4. The public debt is declared to be the debt of the Empire.—5. The revenue of

the Pope shall be fixed at two millions of francs, free from all charges and contributions.—6. The property and palaces of his Holiness shall be subject to no imposition, jurisdiction, or visitation, and shall besides enjoy especial prerogatives.—7. An extraordinary Consulta shall, on the 1st of June, take possession in our name of the Papal dominions, and adopt measures that on the 1st of January, 1810, the Constitutional Government take effect.

(Signed) NAPOLEON.

Another Decree of the same date establishes an Extraordinary Consulta, consisting of the following members: Miollis, governor-general, President; Salcette, minister of the King of Naples; Degerando, Jannet, Del Pozzo, and Debalde, Secretaries. This Consulta is ordered to take possession of the Papal territory, so that the transition from the old to the new order of things may be unperceived.—Then follows a Proclamation of the Consulta after its installation to the Romans, congratulating them upon the change in their situation.

FRENCH ARMY IN PORTUGAL.—*Bulletin, dated Paris, June 22.*

Alex. Girardin, colonel of the 8th regt. of dragoons, and M. Brun, aid-de-camp to the duke of Dalmatia, have passed through this city on their way to the head-quarters of his Imperial Majesty in Austria, with dispatches from their excellencies the dukes of Dalmatia and Elchingen, copies of which have been delivered to the war minister. We now shall anticipate the details which will be given out of the dispatches forwarded to the Emperor, by stating all the particulars respecting the second corps of the army of Spain since the month of January. They have been so misrepresented, as well in France as in Spain, by relations taken from English papers, and by erroneous rumours, to which the interruption in the communication between the various corps of the army had given birth, that it becomes necessary to relate them in the order which their date naturally points out.—After the embarkation of the English at Corunna, Jan. 17th, his excellency the marshal duke of Dalmatia marched towards Portugal through Santiago and Vigo. The difficulties which he experienced in endeavouring to cross the Minho so near its junction with the sea, compelled him to ascend its banks as far as Orense, where he arrived the 5th of March, and from thence began his operations.—The 6th of March he crossed the bridge over the Minho, at Orense, and on his way to Chaves met with Romana's army, which he defeated at Iuzo, Allaritz, and Osogne, near Monterey, destroying the rear-guard, consisting of 3,000 men, and taking 2,000 prisoners and some standards. The enemy then retreated in the greatest disorder to the vale of Oez.—The 13th of March, the duke of Dalmatia appeared before Chaves, on the frontier of Portugal, and invested this place, which capitulated three days after. Its garrison, composed of several thousand peasants and some militia, were sent back to their habitations.—The 16th March, his excellency marched against Braga, where the army of the Portuguese insurgents had taken a position. The badness of the roads delayed the arrival of the artillery until the 19th, when the enemy were attacked. Their force was estimated at 20,000 men, which were entirely overthrown. They lost 6,000 and all their artillery, and retreated upon Oporto.—The 24th, the second corps arrived before Oporto, where all the Portuguese northern armies were collected in an intrenched camp flanked with redoubts, and defended by a numerous artillery.—Two days were spent in skirmishes, and the French troops found in the redoubts, of which they took possession, a shelter from the cannon of the enemy.—The 29th, the duke of Dalmatia fought a battle as glorious as memorable, in which the French displayed their usual enthusiastic valour. Upwards of 10,000 Portuguese were killed or taken, and the enemy lost not only the artillery planted on their intrenchments, but their field pieces. This day put the second corps of the army in possession of more than 200 pieces of cannon.—From the 30th of March to May 10, the 2nd corps was employed in establishing in that part of a country not wholly conquered, his communication with the 6th corps that remained in Gallicia; large detachments were sent to Guimaraens and Valencia, in order to bring the magazines which had been left at Tuy, and to scour the country. General Loison, whose death the English had falsely published, was detached with the same intent against Amarante, Villa Real, and the adjacent country, with 2,500 infantry and 600 horse. The 10th of May, the vanguard of the duke's army was on the Vouga. It was attacked by several thousands of foot, 1,500 horse, and 6 pieces of cannon, which

formed a part of gen. Wellesley's army, lately landed in Portugal. The vanguard retreated behind Feyra, and on the 11th re-crossed the Douro, with the division of gen. Mermet. The increase of the British force in Portugal, and that of the Portuguese insurgents, through the influence of British gold, had as early as the 10th, determined the duke of Dalmatia to effect his retreat through Amarante, Villa Real, and Braganza, ascending the right bank of the Douro. But a numerous corps of English and Portuguese having compelled gen. Loison to evacuate Amarante, the duke found it necessary to pass through the defiles of Salamonde, and in order to gain two marches on the enemy, to sacrifice a few pieces of cannon and their caissons, which he ordered to be destroyed, and the remains of which could prove of no use to the English.—The latter not having been able to gain any advantage on the second corps during the retreat, the only action which took place was with our rear-guard at Oporto, the English having found means to convey on the right bank of the Minho about 1,000 infantry and 50 horse, they have swelled this trifling engagement into a battle, the pompous relation of which (in no point of view a military one) has had no other end than to deceive the people of London, and perhaps the ministers themselves, in order to repay them for the immense sums of money which this expedition must have cost the British Treasury.—On the 19th of May, the duke of Dalmatia was at Allaritz: the 20th he crossed the Minho at Orense; and the 23d formed a communication with the duke of Elchingen himself and the corps under his command.—The arrival of the duke of Dalmatia's army into Gallicia has been useful under every point of view. It has dispersed the bands of armed peasants, who profiting by the movements of the duke of Elchingen against Oviedo, had endeavoured to take possession of Santiago and Lugo, assisted by the few English troops who still occupy Vigo.—Such was the state of things in Gallicia and on the banks of the Minho, during the first days of June, and the English seemed little inclined to try their courage with the 2d and 7th corps, after their junction.

PORTUGAL.—*Official Communication from Marshal Beresford to the President of the Regency. From the Lisbon Gazette of April 25*, 1809.

Head Quarters, Tomas, 21st April.

HAVING been informed that general Soult makes it his business to spread false accounts of the near arrival of considerable reinforcements, and Buonaparté himself at the head of 80,000 men, and that he has succeeded in deluding by similar falsehoods part of the Portuguese forces. I have thought it right to order the inclosed Proclamation to be printed in Coimbra, and to publish the intercepted Letter which general Kellerman wrote to him, and which fell into my hands, in hopes that it will tend to counteract the intrigues of the enemy, for which purpose the above Proclamation has been distributed in Oporto, and all other places where its circulation appeared necessary. God preserve your Excellency many years.—W. C. BERESFORD.—Marshal and Commander in Chief.

PROCLAMATION.—Whereas Marshal Soult (who styles himself Governor of Portugal) although he is perfectly aware of the critical situation in which he has placed himself, but which he endeavours to conceal from the unfortunate troops whom he sacrifices to the boundless ambition of a tyrant, circulates false reports and intelligence of the near arrival of Buonaparté, at the head of a French army of 80,000 men, in order to deceive the public with regard to the dangers by which he is threatened. Marshal Beresford, in order to undeceive the people of the North of Portugal, and the French army, and convince them of the falsehood of the above reports, thinks it right to publish the following intercepted letter, written to Marshal Soult by general Kellerman, who says that he commands the French force in Upper Spain. When it is ascertained that a General publishes falsehoods in one case, his army and the public at large will know how to appreciate his accounts on other occasions. Marshal Soult is perfectly aware of the danger of his situation, but endeavours to conceal them from his troops; and the couriers of whose arrival he boasts, did probably arrive from some part of the position of his corps, two or three leagues distant. They could not at least come either from France or Spain, his communication with these countries being entirely intercepted.

Letter from General Kellerman, dated Valladolid, March 31, 1809.

SIR; His Imperial Majesty having ordered the duke of Istria to join him, has

entrusted me with the command of the French forces in Upper Spain. I received the letters which you wrote him from Berin. I sent copies thereof to his Imperial Majesty, and the prince of Neufchatel, and transmitted the letter which was addressed to the duke, to his highness. Marshal Bessieres set out for Germany on the 16th instant, and the Imperial Guard, with every person belonging to the Imperial household. On the 20th war against Austria was declared; but it is not yet known whether the Emperor will proceed to the Inner Tagliamenta. My position in Spain is rather critical; but I occupy the plain country with a considerable body of horse, although I am destitute of infantry. I am watching the movements of the army of Asturias, and of the troops of Romana, who obstruct our communication with the provinces they occupy. I am not able to do what I could wish, but send strong reconnoitering parties to Braganza and Miranda, and do all I can to keep the people between this place and Madrid in order, whom I know to be disaffected. Your brother has arrived here, but I do not see how he will be able to rejoin as he wishes. The war in Germany, produced by the intrigues and gold of England, cannot but be attended with the most dreadful consequences for us, and must for the present render our situation extremely critical. You cannot expect any reinforcements, unless the duke of Elchingen should be able to send you some, of which I cannot judge, as I have not the least communication with him; and all Gallicia is in a state of insurrection. I send you this letter by a person in whom I place much confidence, and who is worthy of yours, &c. (Signed)—KELLERMAN.—P. S. Turkey has made peace with England; there are insurrections in every part of Germany.

SOLDIERS, who compose the French army, such are the reports which your Commander spreads among you, and such is the true intelligence which the French Generals endeavour to conceal from the people, who are so unfortunate as to be subjected to their power.—Head-Quarters, Tomas, the 20th April, 1809,—(Signed)—W. C BERESFORD, Marshal and Commander in Chief.

From the Lisbon Gazette Extraordinary, June 1.—Letter from D. Manuel De Uria Y Llano, to his Excellency Senor Francisco De Silveira.

Most Excellent Sir,—I have received a dispatch from gen. de Valdeorras D. Jose Ranaon de Quiroga e Vria, dated in Cosoyo, the 23d current, which is as follows :—

"I just receive from the Secretary of the Junta of Monforte a letter of the 21st instant, of which the annexed is a Copy :—"Irmao, governor of Quiroga, informs me, that the French have been engaged with our army during three successive days. The principal action was at Ponte-vicevo, between Meira and Lugo, in which the enemy lost 3,000 men in killed and prisoners, and 2,000 Germans who abandoned his standard. The firing ceased on the 20th, at ten in the morning, when a capitulation was proposed. I could not prevail upon myself to delay communicating to you rexcellency intelligence so agreeable. You will have the goodness to inform their excellencies the English and Portuguese generals of these events."—To which I have to add the following :—

The army of the marquis de la Romana attacked the French on the side of Meira, and pursued them to Paraday. From thence the enemy retreated to Clemente, where he was surrounded, and a terrible fire of artillery and musquetry was opened upon him. Not until many were killed, he fled towards Lugo, leaving in our hands three pieces of cannon among the other spoils of our victory. Our troops followed up to the gates of the city, in the full expectation that the place would be taken either by capitulation or force. By good fortune the Apostle Mazarredo who so often has sworn on the Evangelists, fealty to his king in Astorga, happened to be in Lugo in company with Lot. Ney has escaped, and we are assured that he entered Asturias with 2,000 men, and for our consolation he will probably there remain.—The English are in sight of Corunna and Ferrol with a great number of vessels, and have determined to disembark at those places —Farreira, 21st of May, 1809.

The same general writes me also as follows :—At seven o'clock this evening, I received an official dispatch of the capture of Lugo, by marshal Don Nicholas Mahi, general second in command of the Army of the Left, in the absence of his excellency marquis de la Romana, commander in chief. This action was glorious, not only from its important effects but on account of the obstinate resistance of the enemy, who, in the sequel, was conquered with the loss of 4,000 men in prisoners, wounded, and killed. I cannot express too

strongly my praises of the determined valour of the Spaniards, from whose exertions I expect the best results, and which have already acquired for us in this affair six pieces of artillery, and a quantity of ammunition.—I hope you will communicate these acceptable articles of information, with the applause due to the brave, to generals Beresford, Silveira, and whomsoever else they may coucern, accompanied also by my best acknowledgments.—Seeing Lugo has been taken, and that gen. Carrera, with a division of more than 6,000 men, is in Ponte de Talevada, between the roads of St. Jago and Orense, hopes may be entertained that the armies of Ney and Soult will be destroyed.—God preserve your excellency, &c.—Five A. M. May 25th, 1809. (Signed)

MANUEL DE URIA Y LLANO.

RUSSIA.—*Declaration, dated 25th of April (5th May.)*

THE peace between France and Austria, which has long been wavering, is at length entirely at an end. By the last advices, the Austrian troops have entered the Duchy of Warsaw, and the States of Saxony and Bavaria.—It is thus that the flames of war which had been so lately extinguished upon the Continent have just been rekindled, and, by the force of circumstances, it is necessary that all the powers of Europe should take up arms again.—The preparations for war on the part of Austria were the first cause of this misunderstanding. Russia could not see these with indifference, every means were employed from the beginning to put an end to them: the guarantee of Russia of the integrity of the Austrian States was even offered, and at the same time it was declared, that in virtue of the existing alliance with France, every attack upon the present order of things would be considered as a violation of the rights stipulated by treaties, which ought to be maintained by the force of arms. Austria not rejecting the pacific insinuations made to her, pretended at first that her measures were only defensive; that they were occasioned only by the fear of the danger which threatened her; that her intention was not to undertake an offensive war, and that she would not break the peace.—Facts have proved of how little value these assurances were. The measures of defence which progressively increased have changed into offensive measures. In the room of the fear that was expressed, ambitious plans have been developed, and the war was broken out by the invasion of foreign states, even before any declaration of war in the accustomed form. Austria, who knew perfectly well the conduct which Russia would hold under the present circumstances, has determined to renounce her friendship, and rekindle the flames of war even upon our frontiers, rather than desist from her projects.—In consequence orders have been given to the Russian ambassador at Vienna to quit that capital immediately, and it has been declared to the Austrian ambassador at this court, that from this moment his diplomatic functions have ceased, and that all relations are broken off, with him and his court.

Proclamation of Prince Gallitzin, who has the Command of the Russian Army which has penetrated Gallicia, addressed to the Inhabitants, in the Russian and Polish Languages, dated May 11, 1809.

RUSSIA could not behold, with indifference, the war that has broken out between France and Austria.—Russia did every thing to prevent the commencement of these hostile operations. She declared even to the court of Austria, that, pursuant to articles of treaty between the emperors of Russia and France, and to the close alliance entered into by those two powers, she should be obliged to act in concert with France. Austria listened to none of these remonstrances; but long endeavoured to conceal her warlike preparations under pretence that she was obliged to adopt necessary measures for her security and defence, till she at last, by open hostilities, betrayed her designs, and kindled the flames of war.—Russia has no longer hesitated to take a part in a war in which she is bound to engage by the most solemn treaties. As soon as she learned that hostilities had commenced, she broke off all relations of friendship which had subsisted between her and Austria, and gave orders to her army to advance into Gallicia. The Commander in Chief of the army entering that province to oppose the views of Austria, and to resist force by force, has received from his majesty the Emperor express orders solemnly to assure the peaceable inhabitants of Gallicia that the views of Russia are not hostile; that amid all military operations, the security and safety of persons and property shall be most strictly respected.——The Commander in Chief shall prove, by his conduct, that the principles recommended by his Sovereign are

also consonant to his own inclinations and feelings. PRINCE GALLITZIN,
Commander in Chief.

Ukase to the Senate dated St. Petersburg, May 7, 1809.

It is known to the whole world, with what firmness the trade of neutrals has been protected by Russia, when the powers of Europe were at war; it is known with what valour she has guarded the interests of trading nations in the time of peace, against the events of war. Following up this invariable principle, also during the present rupture with Britain, we entertained the fullest hopes that the trade with friendly powers would not be carried on by forbidden means; but as experience during last season has proved to us, that the enemy has found it practicable, by means of neutral vessels, to supply himself with such produce as he stood in need of, and to gain strength by exchanging his own produce, we have at present been compelled to order two vessels to be seized. For these reasons, and to prevent various subterfuges and artifices, we have deemed it necessary to establish some rules, and hereby order,

1. That all masters of neutral vessels, arriving at our ports, are to prove the property being neutral, by the following documents of the ship, viz. a pass, ship's register, muster-roll, log-book, cocket, manifest of the cargo, the charter-party, bills of lading, certificates of origin, whether the cargo, or part of the same, belonging to the captain, and by the invoices of such vessels as come from America or the Indies, or are bound there. In case, however, the master is not provided with any one of the documents, the ship is to be sent out of our ports, and not to be permitted to discharge.—2. In case of neutral ships being partly loaded with merchandize which can be proved to be of the manufacture or produce of the enemy, the same to be stopped, the goods to be seized and sold by public auction, for the benefit of government; but, if more than half of the cargo consists of such goods, then not only the cargo, but also the ship is to be seized.—3. A pass granted the ship, by a neutral, friendly, or allied power, is not to be considered legal, as soon as it appears that the master has acted contrary to the same; or if the ship is named in the pass differently to what she is in the rest of her documents, unless the alteration made is proved by documents, attested by legal authority, at the place from which the vessel departed, and produced before the magistracy of said place; in this instance the master is not to be considered guilty.—4. A pass is not to be considered valid, if it should appear that the vessel to which it is granted was not, at the very time it is dated, at one of the ports of the power by which it had been given.—5. If the supercargo or master, or more than one-third of the crew, of a neutral vessel, should be subjects of powers at war with us; or if such a vessel is not provided with a muster-roll of the crew, duly attested by the magistracy of such neutral ports from which the same departed, then both ship and cargo are to be seized, but the crew to be set at liberty.—6. If it should appear that the pass produced by the master has been counterfeited or altered, ship and cargo are to be seized for the benefit of government, and the master to be brought to trial, and to be dealt with as is prescribed by the laws for those who make false documents; the crew to be set at liberty.—7. If it should appear that a vessel is provided with double documents, with different destinations, such a vessel and her cargo, to be seized for the benefit of government. In case the master wishes to justify himself, by having lost his documents, and cannot produce any proofs, his vessel to be detained, granting him time for procuring the same proportionate to the distance, if he wishes it; else, if the master cannot wait so long, ship and cargo are immediately to be sent off; but if at the expiration of the period fixed, the master does not produce the needful proofs, ship and cargo are to be seized for the benefit of government.—8. No ship built by the enemy is to be considered neutral, unless amongst other documents, a duly attested document is found, proving the sale or transfer to have taken place, before the declaration of the war; else ship and cargo are to be seized for the benefit of government.—9. If the owner or commander of a neutral vessel happen to be a native of a nation at war with us, and are provided with passes of a neutral power, in such a case the pass is not to serve as a clearance, as long as they cannot prove having become subjects and residents of such a power previous to the declaration of war; else, they are to be sent off, with their ships, not allowing them to take in return cargoes.

LONDON:—Printed by T. C. HANSARD, Peterborough-Court, Fleet-Street;
Published by R. BAGSHAW, Brydges-Street, Covent-Garden:—Sold also by J. BUDD, Pall-Mall.